

22 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CIA Historical Staff

SUBJECT : Status Report for the Period  
1 July - 31 December 1970

1. Progress in the CS portion of the CIA Historical Program was slowed during the semi-annual reporting period by a) the loss of writers under the Agency's accelerated retirement program, and b) the illness of the CS Historical Officer. For the last two and a half months of the period the program lacked a senior Historical Officer, which seriously impeded the recruitment of writers, and in other ways slowed progress. Nevertheless, through the efforts of the other members of the staff, 10 CS histories were published during the reporting period (Attachment A), which brings the total number of histories published to the end of 1970 to 155 of 304 histories scheduled (Attachment B).

2. As of 31 December 1970, work was being done on 79 of the remaining 149 projects by 62 writers, while another 70 projects were inactive for lack of writers (Attachment C). Twenty-four of the 79 projects in progress were in draft nearing completion and in various stages of review or final processing. This group includes six projects in the CS/HS (five for final typing and processing and one for review). Five others have been reviewed by the CIA/HS and returned to the components for revision, and 13 first drafts are nearing completion, being typed by the components or circulated for coordination (Attachment D).

3. The 79 histories in progress are being written by 50 full-time writers (49 staff and one contract) and 12 part-time writers (including one contract writer). Nine persons assigned to write histories have not yet started working. We expect to lose at least four writers in 1971 by retirement or for other reasons.

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4. In the overall program [REDACTED] has drafted 11 of 16 chapters of the History of OPC. It is understood that his contract, which expires in February, is being extended to 30 June to permit him to complete and revise his study.

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[REDACTED] working on contract during part of the reporting period, drafted four chapters of the History of OSO. His work was interrupted by family illness, but he will resume work in the middle of January for the remaining two and one-half months of his contract, with the assistance of [REDACTED] who is on a part-time contract to 30 June 1971. Completion of this history will require provision for continued staffing following the expiration of these contracts.

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[REDACTED], who had been assigned to write the history of the DDP during the Dulles-Wisner period and the Bissell period, retired in July before undertaking his assignments. [REDACTED] designated to carry the history through the Helms period, has been ill. Since these histories must be completed before the end of the catching-up period (December 1971), it is imperative that writers be assigned to them at a very early date. If [REDACTED] is the first writer to become available, it is recommended that he be reassigned to writing the history of the Dulles-Wisner period.

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25X1C8a. Problem areas among the DDP components include: [REDACTED] with 17 histories to be published, nine of which lack writers; AF, with 14 histories presently assigned to four writers (three of whom are active); FE with 15, nine of which need writers (one paper is substantially complete); CA with 10, one of which is nearing publication, five in progress, and four unstaffed; and FI/D with four projects and no writers.

6. A draft history recently submitted by the NE Division, intended as a model for succeeding papers, did not conform to standards of the Historical Staff. It lacked substantive content and interpretive treatment of

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station developments. The question of the content and purpose of this and other papers is being discussed with the Division. The NE Division will need to augment its present staff of writers, however, if the remaining 15 histories are to be completed before the deadline.

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[REDACTED]  
CS Historical Officer

Attachments:

- A. Histories Published during Reporting Period
- B. Status of CS Histories and Writers by Major Components
- C. Status of CS Histories
- D. Histories in Final Stages of Review or Processing
- E. Remaining Histories to be Published and Ones with No Writers

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